



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Rock Falls, IL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Rock Falls was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in northwestern Illinois, Rock Falls (population 9,580) is a small community that has experienced steady losses in manufacturing jobs over the last two decades. The city's declining economy has negatively impacted the lives of many of the city residents and left approximately 100 acres of vacant and dilapidated industrial properties along the Rock Falls riverfront. The most dramatic job losses occurred in 2002 with the closure of Northwestern Steel & Wire and the Reliant Fastener Corporation, when nearly 1,600 area residents were left unemployed. The impact of this downturn is especially apparent in the target community, the Rock Falls Riverfront Redevelopment Area (RRA). The RRA consists of 144 properties, the vast majority of



Cleanup Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Rock Falls for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the former Northwestern Steel & Wire/Parish Alford Site at 100 5th Avenue. This facility is contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, and pesticides as a result of its more than 100 years of industrial activity. Grant funds also will be used to prepare a cleanup plan for the site and conduct community involvement activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Rock Falls, IL
815-564-1366

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

which are defunct industrial lands that are vacant and underutilized, and impose visual and economic blight on the adjacent target community. Nearly ten percent of area residents live below the poverty level, and the median household income is significantly lower than the state median. Cleanup of the riverfront properties will support the city in its efforts to redevelop these properties for uses that are compatible with the adjacent residential area. In addition to local retail and service development, the RRA plans to create public open space that will expand recreation options for the target community and help the riverfront become a social anchor for the community.